

**Amendment to the Claims:**

Please amend the Claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (Currently Amended). Heat, flame, and electric arc resistant fabric (1) for use as single or outer layer of protective garments, characterized in that it comprises at least two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3) each comprising a warp and a weft system, the at least two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3) being assembled together at predefined positions so as to build pockets having a side (S1) and a side (S2), the warp and the weft systems of the at least two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3) being based on materials independently chosen from the group consisting of aramid fibers and filaments, polybenzimidazole ~~polybenzimidazol~~ fibers and filaments, polyamideimide fibers and filaments, poly(paraphenylene benzobisoxazole) fibers and filaments, phenol-formaldehyde fibers and filaments, melamine fibers and filaments, natural fibers and filaments, synthetic fibers and filaments, artificial fibers and filaments, glass fibers and filaments, carbon fibers and filaments, metal fibers and filaments, and composites thereof;

wherein each ~~separate~~-single ply (2,3) is made of a material having a different dimensional thermal shrinkage; and

wherein the two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3) are woven together in such a way that they cross each other at the predefined positions so that the same side (S1 or S2) of two adjacent pockets is alternately made of the two different ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3).

2 (Currently Amended). The fabric (1) according to claim 1, wherein the warp and weft systems of the at least two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3) are, independently chosen from the group consisting of monofilament yarns, multifilament yarns, spun yarns and core spun yarns.

3 (Currently Amended). The fabric (1) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the warp and weft systems of the at least two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3) are,

independently chosen from the group consisting of single yarns, twisted yarns and hybrid yarns.

4 (Previously Presented). The fabric (1) according to claim 3, wherein the warp and weft systems of the at least two single plies (2,3) comprise, independently chosen from the group consisting of single and twisted yarns comprising aramid fibers, aramid monofilaments, aramid multifilaments or composite fibers of aramid and polybenzimidazol.

5 (Currently Amended). The fabric (1) according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein the warp systems of the at least two single plies (2,3) comprise, independently chosen from the group consisting of single and twisted yarns comprising aramid monofilaments or aramid multifilaments, and the weft systems comprise, independently chosen from the group consisting of and in an alternate sequence, single or twisted yarns of aramid monofilaments or single or twisted yarns of aramid multifilaments.

6 (Previously Presented). The fabric (1) according to claim 5, wherein the weft systems of the at least two single plies (2,3) comprise, independently chosen from the group consisting of and in an alternate sequence, at least two different single and twisted yarns of aramid filaments.

7 (Currently Amended). The fabric (1) according to claim 1 consisting of two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3).

8 (Currently Amended). The fabric (1) according to claim 7, wherein the two ~~separate~~-single plies (2,3) comprise aramid fibers chosen from the group consisting of poly-m-phenylenisophthalamid, poly-p-phenyleneterephthalamid and mixtures thereof.

9 - 12 (Cancelled).

13 (Currently Amended). The fabric (1) according to claim 7, wherein the two ~~separate~~ single plies (2,3) are assembled together at predefined positions so as to build closed, adjacent pockets.

14 (Original). The fabric (1) according to claim 13, wherein the closed, adjacent pockets are square shaped.

15 (Previously Presented). The fabric (1) according to claim 1, wherein each side of the pockets is between 5 and 50 mm.

16 (Original). The fabric (1) according to claim 15, wherein each side of the pockets is between 8 and 32 mm.

17 (Previously Presented). The fabric (1) according to claim 1, having a specific weight between 100 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 900 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

18 (Original). The fabric (1) according to claim 17, having a specific weight between 170 and 320 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

19 (Cancelled).

20 (Previously Presented). Garment for protection against heat, flames and electric arc comprising a structure made of at least one layer of a fabric (1) according to claim 1.

21 (Previously Presented). The garment according to claim 20, comprising an internal layer.

22 - 24 (Cancelled).